

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 have been presented for examination in the above-identified U.S. Patent Application.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected in the Office Action dated March 12, 2007, the rejection of the Claims being made final.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 12, 13, 17, 19, and 20 have been amended by this Amendment B.

Claims 4, 7, 15 and 15 have been cancelled by this
Amendment B.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-13 and 16-20 are still in the application and reconsideration of the Application is hereby respectfully requested.

Examiner has maintained the rejection provided in the Office Action dated September 13, 2006. In that Office Action, Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0184477 issued in the name of Swaine (hereinafter referred to as Swaine).

Before addressing the rejection as indicated by Examiner, the invention sought to be protected by the amended Application of the present Continuation Application will be summarized. The invention involves an address

1 comparator unit, each comparator unit including a first and
2 a second comparator. The two comparators of the comparator
3 unit are interconnected so that a positive output signal
4 will be generated only when the two conditions defined by
5 both comparators are identified as providing positive
6 comparison result with the control signals. This result is
7 accomplished by interconnecting the output signals of the
8 two comparators so that a positive output signal is
9 provided only when the conditions defined by control
10 signals in the two comparator units are present. Note that
11 the present invention includes a further level of
12 generality, i.e., the two comparators may operate on the
13 same address or on two addresses. These features are
14 present in the independent Claims 1, 6, 12, and 17 as
15 amended. In addition each of the independent Claims includes
16 a qualifying circuit that enables the two comparators only
17 when the target processor is in the appropriate state.
18

19 Referring now to the Swaine reference, this reference
20 has several elements similar of the present invention.
21 However, the present invention includes, in each of the
22 independent Claims, the inter-connection between the two
23 comparators of the comparator unit. This configuration is
24 not found in the Swaine reference. Clearly, this is not a
25 matter of design choice. One address can for example be
26 the program counter (address) and the second address can be
27 the address designated by the program counter (address).
28 Further, the use of two comparators in a comparator unit
29 permits an address to be analyzed for two characteristics
30 as well as identifying relationships in two separate

1 addresses. In the (0022) paragraph cited by Examiner in
2 the final rejection, the use of a multiplexer is described
3 as selecting an output between a comparator and a "context
4 identifier comparators". Nowhere is there found in the
5 Swaine reference an inter-connection between comparators
6 (cf Fig. 3 of the Swaine reference).

7

8 In view of this physical difference between the Swaine
9 reference and the present invention (i.e., the inter-
10 connection between two comparators in a comparator unit),
11 the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Swaine is
12 respectfully traversed.

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14 In addition, because of the additional flexibility of
15 comparator unit described in the application, rejection
16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Swaine is respectfully
17 traversed.

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CONCLUSION

3 In view of the foregoing discussion and the foregoing
4 amendments, it is believed that Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-13 and
5 16-20 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of
6 Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-13 and 16-20 is respectfully requested.
7 Applicant hereby respectfully requests a timely Notice of
8 Allowance be issued for this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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